

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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ACDA-07 IO-13 /087 W

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R 050545Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 272

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PINT, PINS, MI, MZ, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: GOM CONCERN RE NEIGHBORS' INTENTIONS

1. ON AUGUST 2, 1976, CIC MALAWI ARMY, GENERAL MATAWERE, MADE SPECIAL POINT OF DRAWING ASIDE DEFENSE ATTACHE AT RIFLE MATCH TO INDICATE TO US PRESIDENT BANDA'S AND HIS CONCERN THAT TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA MIGHT BE ABOUT TO GANG UP AGAINST BANDA REGIME. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 4 WITH COLONEL KHANGA, CHIEF ARMY HQ, KHANGA SAID CONCERN STEMMED FROM TWO RECENT RADIO BROADCASTS, ONE REPORTEDLY FROM DAR QUOTING A MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER VISITING THERE WHO DECLARED THE SO-CALLED FRONTLINE STATES (MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA) HAD FORMED AN ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN SOUTH AFRICA AND HER FRIENDS WHICH INCLUDED RHODESIA "AND OTHERS". SECOND BROADCAST REPORTEDLY FROM SALISBURY MENTIONED ABOVE BROADCAST AND SAID "OTHERS" REFERRED TO MALAWI. KHANGA ALSO MADE OBSERVATION THAT HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PERSONAL REGARD FOR PRESIDENT BANDA ONLY THING WHICH THUS FAR HAD KEPT ZAMBIA FROM JOINING ALLIANCE AGAINST

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MALAWI, BUT NOW PERHAPS ZAMBIA HAS BEEN FORCED TO JOIN.

2. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE RE ABOVE FEARS. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE BANDA HAS AS YET MADE NO CONTACT WITH SENIOR FRELIMO OFFICIALS ALTHOUGH FOR PAST YEAR HE HAS BEEN WHISTLING BRAVELY RE GOOD RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ALONG THE EXTENSIVE BORDERS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT MOVEMENT OF GOODS TO AND FROM BEIRA AND NACALA HAS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IMPROVED AND BANDA HAS ALSO REGARDED THIS AS POSITIVE SIGN THAT EVENTUAL MENDING OF RELATIONS WITH MACHEL REGIME WILL OCCUR.

3. THIS YEAR, CONTRARY TO LAST, TANZANIA NOT REPRESENTED AT JULY 6TH CEREMONIES. RUMORS OF STATE VISIT HERE BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA WERE RIFE EARLIER IN YEAR AND JUST BEFORE JULY 6TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY. ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD ME GOM PRESSED FOR SUCH VISIT BUT THAT WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN AREA EXCEPT MALAWI INVOLVED AND COOPERATING IN ZIMBABWE LIBERATION EFFORT, KAUNDA DID NOT WISH TO COME HERE. THERE MAY WELL BE SOME COOLING IN THIS HERETOFORE REASONABLY CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BUT FROM HERE WOULD NOT SEEM OF SUFFICIENT DEGREE FOR KAUNDA TO JOIN FORCES WITH OTHERS IN BRINGING PRESSURE TO OUST BANDA.  
STEVENSON

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